

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 295081

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CONAKRY 2326 ACTION SECSTATE NOV 24.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 2326

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PFOR PGOV PINS PINT GV US UR
SUBJECT:SOVIET SURVEILLANCE DEPLOYMENTS

REF: CONAKRY 2314 AND 2324

1. FRG MINISTER OF STATE H.G. WISCHNEWSKI WAS RECEIVED WITH SURPRISING CORDIALITY BY GOG DURING VISIT TO CONAKRY NOVEMBER 15 - 19 (REFTELS). WISCHNEWSKI INFORMED AMBASSADOR IN GREAT CONFIDENCE OF FOLLOWING EXCHANGE.

2. DURING INTIMATE TOUR D'HORIZON WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE 19 NOVEMBER (ONLY PRIMMIN BEAVOGUI AND WISCHNEWSKI'S CHIEF OF CABINET PETER KIEVITT PRESENT), WISCHNEWSKI TOLD SEKOU TOURE THAT QUESTIONS HAD BEEN RAISED IN NATO CIRCLES ABOUT DEPLOYMENT OF SOVIET
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MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM CONAKRY. WISCHNEWSKI WONDERED

WHAT THE FACTS WERE AND HOW THEY RELATED TO GUINEA'S DECLARED NONALIGNMENT.

3. SEKOU TOURE REPLIED THAT THERE WERE THREE CATEGORIES OF SOVIET FLIGHTS:

A) AERFLOT COMMERCIAL; B) HAVANA/LUANDA TRAFFIC, WHICH HE EXPECTED WOULD BE ENGAGED INCREASINGLY IN REPATRIATION CUBAN TROOPS, AND C) SURVEILLANCE DEPLOYMENTS FOR PROTECTION OF GUINEAN BORDERS. AMERICANS HAD INFORMED HIM THAT SOVIETS WERE EXPLOITING CATEGORY (C) FOR SYSTEMATIC INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION ON NATO NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE ATLANTIC. SEKOU TOURE SAID SUCH DEPLOYMENT WAS AN ABUSE OF HIS AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS, UNAUTHORIZED AND UNWANTED BY GOG. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT CONTROL ITINERARY OF SOVIET SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS.

4. TOURE CONTINUED THAT HE HAD TOLD AMERICANS THESE DEPLOYMENTS WOULD STOP BUT THAT AMERICANS MUST HELP HIM GUARD HIS REGIME AGAINST FOREIGN THREATS. IN FACT, HE HAD RECENTLY INFORMED SOVIETS THAT EXTERNAL THREAT TO GUINEA WAS DIMINISHING SO THAT AFTER ANOTHER MONTH OR SO THEIR SURVEILLANCE PROTECTION MIGHT NO LONGER BE NEEDED. HE WAS RELUCTANT TO ACTUALLY STOP SOVIET FLIGHTS UNTIL HE FELT SAFE WITHOUT THEM, SINCE IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO TURN THEM ON AGAIN.

5. ACCORDING WISCHNEWSKI, TOUIA SAID THAT THE AMERICAN RESPONSE HAD NOT BEEN ADEQUATE. IF THE AMERICANS COULD DO A BIT MORE TO REASSURE HIM, HE WOULD LIKE TO END THE SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS. HE WAS DETERMINED TO PURSUE A NONALIGNED POLITY DESPITE HIS IDEOLOGICAL SYMPATHY FOR USSR. HE HAD OVER THE YEARS EXPELLED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND SEVERAL OTHER OFFICIALS; AT U.S. REQUEST HE HAD DENIED SOVIET USE OF HIS AIRFIELDS DURING CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.

6. BOTH WISCHNEWSKI AND KIEVITT WERE IMPRESSED BY SEKOU TOURE'S EVIDENT DISCOMFORT WITH THE SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS. THEY BELIEVED HE WAS SINCERE ABOUT WANTING TO STOP THEM. WISCHNEWSKI TOLD AMBASSADOR HE HOPED U.S. WOULD SEEK MEANS
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OF REASSURING TOURE, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO HIM WHAT KIND OF ASSURANCE WOULD SATISFY GOG. WISCHNEWSKI WILL REPORT HIS CONVERSATION TO FRG DEFENSE MINISTER AND NATO REPRESENTATIVE. HARROP UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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